

ABIGAIL ADAMS (1744-1818) "...and by the way in the new Code of Laws which I suppose it will be necessary for you to make I desire you would Remember the Ladies, and be more generous and favorable to them than your ancestors."

- LETTER TO JOHN ADAMS, MARCH 31, 1776

Abigail Adams

LUCY STONE (1818-1893) "In education, in marriage, in religion, in everything disappointment is the lot of women. It shall be the business of my life to deepen that disappointment in every woman's heart until she bows down to it no longer."

- SPEECH, NATIONAL WOMAN'S RIGHTS CONVENTION, CINCINNATI 1855

Lucy Stone

PHILLIS WHEATLEY (1753-1784) "...in every human Breast, God has implanted a Principle, which we call Love of Freedom; it is impatient of Oppression, and pants for Deliverance ...the same Principle lives in us."

- LETTER TO THE REVEREND SAMSON OCCOM, FEBRUARY 11, 1774

Phillis Wheatley

These women - each in her own way - pushed the boundaries of convention for her time, bringing change to Boston and America. Their words, which inspired their contemporaries, continue to motivate people to follow Lucy Stone's counsel to "make the world better".

To learn more contact:

City of Boston
Women's Commission
Boston City Hall, Room 716
Boston, MA 02201
P 617.635.4427
F 617.635.3031
E bostonwomen@ci.boston.ma.us

Boston Women's Heritage Trail
www.bwht.org

Acknowledgements:

Photos
Michael Bergmann
Text
Sara Masucci
Design
BRA Graphics

BOSTON WOMEN'S MEMORIAL

2003



CITY OF BOSTON
MAYOR THOMAS M. MENINO

The Boston Women's Memorial honors three important contributors to Boston's rich history - Abigail Adams, Lucy Stone and Phillis Wheatley. Each of these women had progressive ideas that were ahead of her time, was committed to social change, and left a legacy through her writings that had a significant impact on history.

The sculptures will be installed in 2003 on the historic Commonwealth Avenue Mall in Boston, between Fairfield and Gloucester Streets. Artist Meredith Gang Bergmann's vision for this memorial represents the forefront of new thinking about representation in public art. Unlike conventional statues that are larger than life or set high upon pedestals, the subjects of



the Boston Women's Memorial are sculpted in a manner that invites the observer to interact with them. Each woman is shown in a pose that reflects

the use of language in her life and instead of standing on her pedestal, she is using it. This memorial combines symbols found in the traditional sculptures surrounding it, but uses them in new and original ways.

With encouragement and support from many people in the city - including residents, educators, historians, artists, officials and business neighbors - the Boston Women's Memorial project grew from an idea to a reality. Committees worked on the feasibility and then the development of the memorial, connecting with the community, and, with the guidance of a public art consultant, the selection of the artist. The memorial enhances Boston's heritage in a new way and it was important to create it within a community context.

In many ways the Boston Women's Memorial breaks from tradition. The spirit and purpose of Adams, Stone and Wheatley are embodied in the memorial - their commitment to challenging convention and changing attitudes is reflected in its innovative style. The sculptures represent an awareness of the need to include women in public art, and they are a provocative starting point for considering other historical women yet to be recognized.

The memorial is a unique opportunity for teaching viewers about women's history. Toward this goal, a curriculum is being developed that will introduce young people to Adams, Stone and Wheatley - their words, their ideas, and their legacy.



PHOTO: ANNE GWYN

Meredith is a sculptor with 25 years experience creating works that deal with complex themes in an understandable, beautiful and stimulating way. Her motto for her work is "to move, to teach, and to delight." She works in a style that seems traditional in that it is legible and representational, but is absolutely contemporary in her taste for symbolic design and multiple viewpoints.

"Public art originates not as an individual artist's impulse for self-expression but as a request for help with a group's expression."

-MEREDITH GANG BERGMANN